BOOM! STUDIOS

JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 3

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

I DON'T BELIEVE IN MONSTERS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN MONSTERS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN MONSTERS.

I DON'T...

CREEK

BELIEVE.

SNNIFF

SNNIFF

EEEEEEK

NOOOO!

OH, FUCK--

NO!

YES
NO
GOOD BYE

HELP!

PLEASE... SOMEBODY HELP...

REEEEEEE

NO...NO... PLEASE.

PLEASE!!!

THEY TALK...THEY TALK ABOUT IT BACKWARDS, I THINK.

THEY TALK ABOUT HOW THEY KEEP GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER, AND HOW YOU NEVER STOP SEEING THE KID THAT THEY WERE.

THE BABY WHOSE BUTT YOU'VE WIPED MORE TIMES THAN YOU CAN COUNT, AND WHO THREW UP OVER ALL YOUR BEST SHIRTS.

BUT IT'S BACKWARDS.

HENRY...

THERE WAS THE WAY HE HELD HIS MOTHER WHEN THE LAST JOB LAID ME OFF. THERE'S THE WAY HE HAD THIS LITTLE...

...LITTLE SPARK IN HIS EYE, WHEN HE HELPED JAINA WITH HER MATH PROBLEMS.

HE'D STEP UP. HE'D STEP UP BECAUSE HE KNEW HE HAD TO, AND THERE WAS NO...NO RESENTMENT. NO "WHY ME?" HE DID IT WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, LIKE I NEVER DID.

I STILL DON'T KNOW ***WHERE*** HE GOT IT, BUT THOSE WERE ALWAYS THE MOMENTS THAT STUCK. NOT THE ONES THAT MADE ME THINK OF THE BABY.

I REMEMBER THE TIMES I SAW THE ***MAN.***

THE MAN HE SHOULD HAVE BECOME.

HENRY, DO YOU WANT ME TO CALL YOU A CAB?

JUST ONE MORE. IS THAT OKAY?

I DON'T...I DON'T THINK I'D GET TO SLEEP LIKE THIS. AND IT'S A LONG SHIFT TOMORROW.

OKAY. AND THEN WE'LL GET YOU THAT CAB.

OKAY.

SHE HAD THESE, LIKE... BIG CREEPY EYES.

YEAH?

LIKE, TOO BIG. LIKE THEY ***KNEW*** SOMETHING. LIKE THEY KNEW WHEREVER MY SISTER IS RIGHT NOW.

SHIT, MAN.

AND SHE WAS WITH THAT KID. THAT ***JAMES*** KID. THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY.

IF HE DIDN'T FUCKING DO IT ALL HIMSELF. MAYBE HE, LIKE, CONVINCED HER WHO WAS A TARGET.

WHERE IS SHE NOW...?

CALLED THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. THEY SAID THEY'D PICK HER UP.

YOU TRUST HIM?

FUCK NO.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF THEY LET HER GO?

WHAT I HAVE TO.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

THIS CAN'T BE YOUR REAL NAME.

DRIVER LICENSE
REGULAR
WISCONSIN USA
4d S123-4567-6501-00
1 SLAUGHTER
2 ERICA
8 4802 SHEBOYGAN AVE
MADISON, WI 53705
9 CLASS D
15 SEX F
17 WGT 132 lb
16 HGT 5'-02"
18 EYES GRE
19 HAIR BLD
3 DOB 12/14/1987
9a END NONE
4a ISS 10/31/2015
4b EXP 02/11/2023
5 DD DTNJA2015103118143516
DONOR
FEB 74
ERICA SLAUGHTER

YEAH?
ERICA SLAUGHTER.
SLAUGHTER'S A REAL NAME.

BUT IS IT *YOUR* REAL NAME?
SURE.
SAYS SO ON THE CARD.

THIS IS MADE OF PAPER.
SO'S A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD.
THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD. IT'S A LICENSE. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU MADE IT AT A KINKO'S.

YEAH.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN LAMINATE IT.
YEAH.

MA'AM. I FIND YOU IN AN EMPTY MOTEL ROOM TALKING TO A STUFFED ANIMAL, AND NOW YOU'RE FEEDING ME BULLSHIT.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO BE FUCKED WITH RIGHT NOW...I NEED YOU TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS I KEEP ASKING YOU.

YOU ASKED ME WHERE I WAS ON A BUNCH OF DATES. I TOLD YOU. IF YOU LOOK THOSE DATES AND PLACES UP, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT LITTLE TOWNS LIKE THIS WITH MISSING KIDS.
THAT'S GOING TO FREAK YOU OUT AND YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO LOCK ME UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY, BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU SAW ME GETTING OFF THE BUS.

YOU KNOW I WASN'T HERE WHEN THINGS WENT BAD, BUT YOU ***STILL*** WANT TO LOCK ME UP BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING.

THAT SUM IT UP?

SURE.

WHO WENT MISSING FIRST?

EXCUSE ME?

THERE WERE PROBABLY A FEW CASES OF DISAPPEARANCES YOU WROTE OFF. BEFORE THERE WERE BODIES. BEFORE YOU KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING KILLING THE CHILDREN.

THERE ARE KIDS MISSING THAT AREN'T ON THIS LIST BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO BE. BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO GET CALLED OUT.

OR, I'LL BE NICE, BECAUSE YOU HOPE YOU WERE RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, AND IT WAS JUST ALL THE NORMAL, MUNDANE WAYS KIDS GO MISSING. AN ANGRY RELATIVE OR A RUNAWAY OR SOMETHING REGULAR.

BUT DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW THEY AREN'T MISSING. THEY'RE DEAD.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE INTERROGATING ME.

SURE.

BUT YOU SEE...***YOU'RE*** THE ONE WE'VE GOT LOCKED UP HERE.

YEAH, OKAY.

WHO WENT MISSING FIRST?

STOP FUCKING WITH ME! STOP ACTING LIKE THIS IS A GODDAMN ***GAME!***

SLAM

THIS ISN'T MILWAUKEE OR MADISON OR EVEN GREEN BAY. THIS ISN'T A PLACE WHERE THESE KINDS OF THINGS ***HAPPEN.***

CHILDREN ARE DEAD, ERICA!

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

WHAT... YOU--

YOU'RE GOING TO GET A CALL SOON. AFTER THE CALL YOU'RE GOING TO LET ME GO. A LITTLE BIT AFTER THAT, THIS PROBLEM IS GOING TO GO AWAY.

YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, OR WHY, AND THAT'S GOING TO DRIVE YOU A LITTLE BIT CRAZY, BUT AT LEAST KIDS WILL STOP DYING.

THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN SOONER IF YOU TELL ME THE FIRST KID WHO DISAPPEARED.

JOE? WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM...

THIS YOUR PHONE CALL?

DON'T THINK SO.

THIS ABOUT HER, RICHARDS?

NO...

THERE'S FIVE OF THEM, JOE. THERE'S FIVE MORE DEAD.

WHEN?

JUST NOW...THE CALL...THE CALL SAID THAT THERE WAS STILL BLOOD, SPURTING...

PUT HER IN THE DRUNK TANK.

AM I BEING CHARGED WITH SOMETHING?

BEING DRUNK.

AH.

JESUS. FIVE OF THEM.

I KNOW.

WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU KNOW?

I KNOW HOW SCARED YOU ARE. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE THAT YOU THINK YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED.

YOU CAN STOP THIS.

YEAH.

WHY? WHY CAN YOU STOP THIS?

I'M SORRY. THERE ISN'T AN ANSWER I CAN GIVE YOU THAT WOULD MAKE YOU FEEL ANY BETTER. I'M NOT TRYING TO BE DIFFICULT...

SHIT.

JUST GET OUT OF HERE. DON'T LEAVE TOWN.

I WON'T UNTIL IT'S OVER.

FINE.

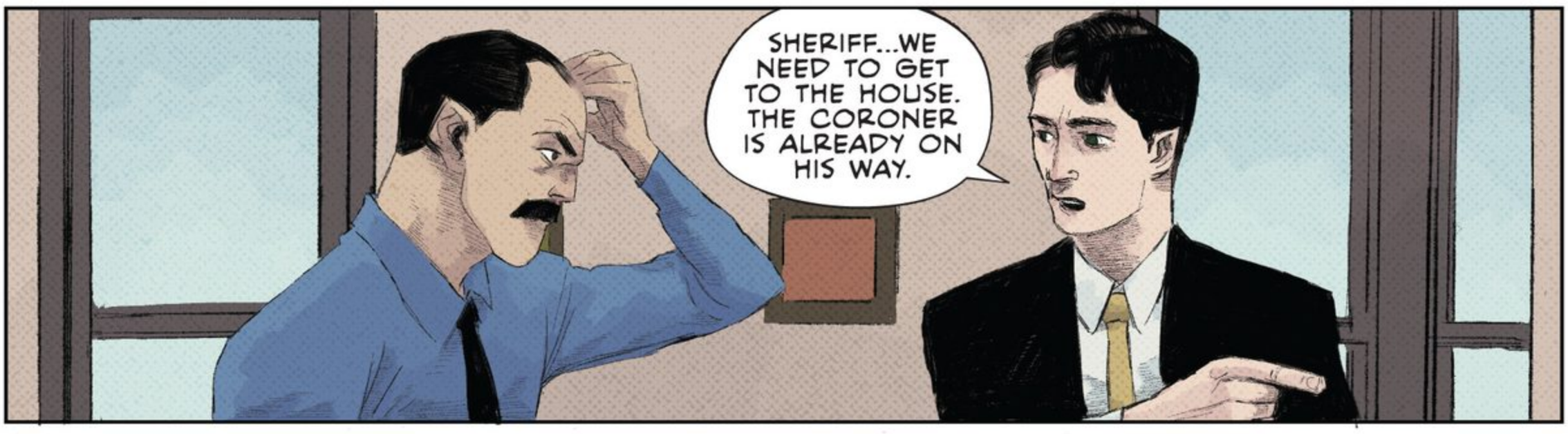
WAIT.

THERE WAS A GIRL. SARA WASHINGTON. THEY THOUGHT HER UNCLE MUST HAVE PICKED HER UP, BUT THERE WASN'T ANY SIGN...THIS WAS A MONTH AND A HALF AGO.

THANK YOU.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I GET THAT PHONE CALL? THE ONE TELLING ME TO LET YOU GO?

YOU SHOULD TELL HIM HE'S AN ASSHOLE AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE CALLED SOONER.
FIVE MORE KIDS ARE DEAD BECAUSE OF HIM.


SHERIFF...WE NEED TO GET TO THE HOUSE. THE CORONER IS ALREADY ON HIS WAY.

I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THAT, JOHN. I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE FOR YOU. SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

I NEED YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER. NOTHING TOO OBVIOUS...I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE HELL SHE'S UP TO.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING I CAN'T SHAKE THAT THIS IS ALL GOING TO GET MUCH WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER.

OH. HEY.

HEY.

WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU OKAY? I WALKED OVER WHEN I HEARD THEY PICKED YOU UP.

I'M OKAY.

COOL.

WHAT ARE YOU...?

ONE SECOND.

I...

JAMES, SHOULDN'T YOU BE IN SCHOOL?

I MEAN, WHAT'S THE POINT? THEY AREN'T GOING TO FAIL ME, AND EVERYONE THERE THINKS I KILLED MY FRIENDS.

THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT, ISN'T IT? THIS IS HOW I CAN ***ACTUALLY*** DO SOMETHING. I WANT TO DO SOMETHING.

DOING SOMETHING DOESN'T ALWAYS MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER, JAMES. FIVE MORE CHILDREN ARE DEAD. KILLED INSIDE A HOUSE.

YOU ***KNOW*** AN E7 WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT. WHAT THE FUCK AM I UP AGAINST HERE?

THE KILL PATTERN IS NOW MORE CONSISTENT WITH A CLASS B OSCURATYPE THAN A CLASS E.

ARE YOU TALKING TO YOUR OCTOPUS?

YEAH.

COOL.

WE'LL FINISH THIS LATER.

YOU LOOK ANGRY. YOU SHOULD TRY TALKING TO HUMAN PEOPLE AND NOT STUFFED OCTO--

JAMES. JUST SHUT THE FUCK UP.

I...I'M SORRY.

NO. I'M SORRY.

YOU LOST YOUR FRIENDS AND YOU'RE SCARED OUT OF YOUR MIND. AND THAT'S ALL OKAY, AND IT'S NOT FAIR OF ME TO PUT ANY OF THIS ON YOU.

BUT THERE ARE MORE KIDS DYING. IT'S GETTING STRONGER, AND LESS AFRAID OF MAKING A MESS. THAT'S DANGEROUS. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE GONE UP AGAINST SOMETHING THIS BIG.

OKAY.

WE JUST... WE NEED TO GET THIS OVER WITH QUICK.

THEN WHAT CAN WE DO?

WE'RE GOING TO NEED WEAPONS.

LOTS OF WEAPONS.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"THE ANGEL OF ARCHER'S PEAK"
PART THREE

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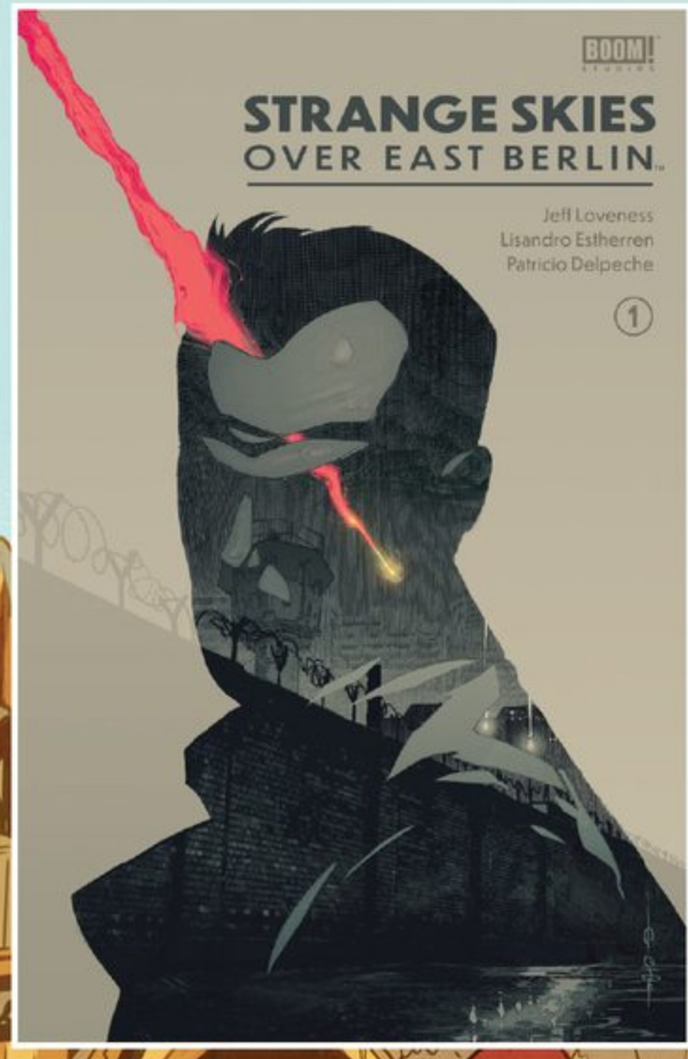

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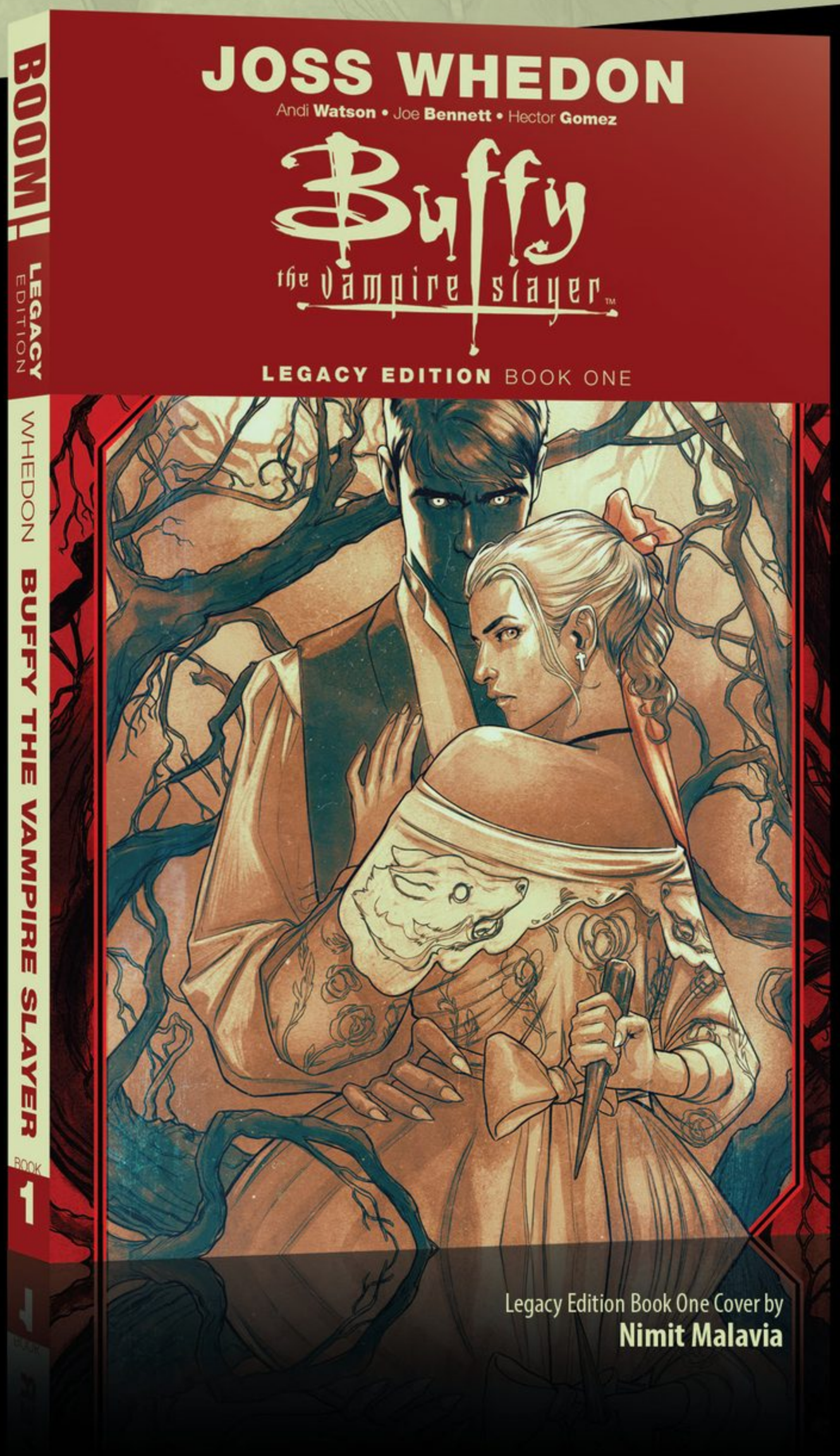
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